

FORT MCDOWELL

(FORT MCDOWELL, EAST GARRISON) FINANCE & SIGNAL OFFICE
(Fort McDowell, East Garrison, Building No. 148)
Angel Island
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2721-F

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

ADDENDUM TO:
FORT MCDOWELL, FINANCE & SIGNAL OFFICE
(Building No. 148)
Angel Island State Park
Angel Island
Marin County
California

HABS CA-2721-F
CAL,21-ANGEL,2F-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT MCDOWELL,
FINANCE AND SIGNAL BUILDING
(Fort McDowell - East Garrison, Building No. 148)

HABS No. CA-2721-F

Location: Angel Island, Marin County, California

Present Owner: California State Parks

Present Occupant: California State Parks

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: World War I strained the facilities available in the concrete buildings constructed during the 1910-14 building campaign. The Finance and Signal Building is a surviving example of wood construction used to expand the Fort McDowell Recruit Depot during the 1920s.

Description: Currently the Finance and Signal Building is in very poor condition. It is located on a sharply sloping site across the road from the Fort McDowell hospital. It is an approximately 52 by 36 foot, two-story, wood frame structure with a low-pitched gable roof. It has concrete pier foundations, horizontal wood clapboard exterior siding approximately four inches wide, and a wood shingle roof. The second floor was originally accessed directly from the road by a platform. An exterior stair provided access to the raised first floor. Even when originally constructed, the building had irregularly spaced door and window openings. There is a one-story addition on the northwest corner of the building, approximately 23 by 16 feet. For more information see drawings HABS No. CA-2721-F.

History: This building was constructed in 1922 as the Vocational Training Building for \$5,500. Plans were prepared by the Constructing Quartermaster's Office at Fort Mason, California. The contractor was Warren & Fletcher of Vallejo, California. Originally the first floor had two large classrooms in the northwest half of the structure with a long corridor across the south and bathrooms, a storeroom, and office on the east. By 1929 the building was converted into the Finance and Signal Office. Numerous partitions were added to the first floor to create quarters and offices for the Signal Corps telephone operators and non-commissioned officers. The second floor was used as the finance office. Army records regarding 1938 repairs describe the facilities housed in the building: "Improvement and repairs of Post building no. 148, housing Finance Office, telephone exchange, signal

supplies, signal corps detachment and one bachelor master sergeant, consists of: installation of two wash basins, one toilet and one shower; repair of steam heat in building; repair of partitions, repair of plumbing and electric lighting; interior painting.”¹ The one-story addition was probably built c. 1943.

Sources:

Completion Report on Construction of Vocational Training Building at Fort McDowell, California (21 September 1922), National Archives and Records Administration (hereafter NARA), RG 92, Entry 1974, Box 194. Includes blueprints, photographs, and specifications.

Historical Record of Public Buildings, Fort McDowell, Angel Island, Building No. 148 - Finance and Signal Office, NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 144, Folder 3. Includes photograph from April 1929 and c. 1929 floor plans.

Historical Record of Public Buildings, Fort McDowell, Angel Island, Building No. 148 - Finance and Signal Office, NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 143, Folder 4. Includes more detailed maintenance information, up to October 1942.

“Improvement and Repairs, Building No. 148,” (30 August 1938), National Archives and Records Administration (hereafter NARA), RG 77, Entry 391, Box 188, Volume 1.

Project Information:

Documentation of Fort McDowell was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Division of the National Park Service, E. Blaine Cliver, Chief. The project was sponsored by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Rusty Areias, Director; and by Angel Island State Park, Nick Franco, Superintendent. Project planning was coordinated by Paul Dolinsky, Chief, HABS. The field recording was conducted and the measured drawings were produced during 2001 by project supervisor Mark Schara, HABS Architect; by HABS Architect Naomi Hernandez; and by architects Christine M. Odom (University of Texas) and Gregory J. Sokaris (State University of New York at Buffalo). Historical reports were produced during 2002 by Lisa Pfueller Davidson, HABS Historian. Large format photographs were produced during 2002-03 by James

¹“Improvement and Repairs, Building No. 148,” (30 August 1938), National Archives and Records Administration (hereafter NARA), College Park, Maryland, RG 77, Entry 391, Box 188, Volume 1, Page 71.

Rosenthal, HABS Photographer. Assistance in all phases of this project was provided by the staff of Angel Island State Park. See related documentation, HABS No. CA-1841, Camp Reynolds, for information about the West Garrison portion of the island.